

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

As the largest prehistoric Indian site north of Mexico, Cahokia Mounds covered about 4,000 acres and included at least 120 mounds. The State of Illinois now protects 2,200 acres of the central portion of the site and 72 of the 80 remaining mounds. The site was named a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1965, and in 1982, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Cahokia Mounds a World Heritage Site for its significance in the prehistory of North America. Travelers, scholars, and students from around the globe visit Cahokia Mounds and its world-class Interpretive Center to learn about the highly sophisticated civilization that built this urban complex.

During the tour, you'll visit Cahokia Mounds' Interpretive Center for a self-guided tour where you will see artifacts and displays, including a diorama of a Mississippian Village depicting life 1000 years ago. While there, you'll view the 15-minute, award winning, orientation film, "City of the Sun". A Guided tour of the Grand Plaza will follow, which includes viewing the Twin Mounds, the Plaza and having a chance to learn more about Cahokia Mounds. The Grand Plaza tour follows a paved path on level ground, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, lasting about 45 minutes. The Tour Guide will discuss Monks Mound, but you'll visit it on your own. At 100 feet tall, Monks Mound is the largest prehistoric earthen construction in the Americas and is located about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Interpretive Center. For more information check our website cahokiamounds.org.